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BOROUGH OF BODMIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. FOR THE Year ended 31st December, 1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1962.

General Statistics.

The Borough of Bodmin, situated almost centrally in the County of Cornwall covers an area of 3,312 acres, lying approximately between the contours 250-500ft above sea-level. The trunk roads A30 and A38 converge on the town from the east. The estimated mid-year population of the Borough was 6,080 persons, occupying 1,629 houses. The towns rateable value at 1st April, 1962 was £68,799, giving a penny rate product of £285.

Vital Statistics.

In 1962 there were registered 95 births, 46 male, 49 female, (an increase of 17 on 1961), giving a crude birth rate of 15.5 per 1,000 population. The calculated rate for comparison with other areas was 21.2 per 1,000 population. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1962 was 18.0 per 1,000 population. One still birth only was registered. The registered deaths were 181 (74 male, 107 female) giving a crude death rate of 29.6 per 1,000 population. The registered deaths increased by 40. It must be remembered in this connection that included in the Borough population is the majority of 1,100 patients in the St.Lawrences Hospital. Some 40% of these are over 60 years, and therefore provide a large proportion of the deaths registered to the town. The corrected death rate for comparison is 11.2 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.9 per 1,000. There were 3 infant deaths recorded (2male, 1 female). The number of deaths occurring in Borough residents was 69 (30 male, 39 female). The age distribution of these deaths was as follows :-

	Male.	Female.
0 - 1 yrs	2	1
1 -20 yrs	-	-
21-40 yrs	1	-
41-60 yrs	7	4
61-70 yrs	5	7
71-80 yrs	9	12
Over 80 yrs	6	15
	30	39

The distribution of deaths by causes was :-

	Male.	Female.
Heart Disease	15	16
Cerebrovascular Disease	2	5
Respiratory Disease	2	5
Cancer	6	4
All other causes	5	9

Hospital Services

There are two Hospitals in the town. The larger, St. Lawrences Hospital for the mentally ill, houses approximately 1,100 patients and serves the whole of the county area. Extensive modernisation has already been undertaken, and a great deal more is contemplated in the near future. Included in the building programme is a new out patient department for general use, replacing the existing provisions at present held at the East Cornwall Hospital. This hospital has some 28 beds for general medical and surgical cases, and is rightly held in high esteem by the district which it serves. Its future in the development of hospital services is a little uncertain. Patients requiring major surgical and medical care are referred mainly to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro. Some are occasionally referred to the Plymouth Group of Hospitals. Maternity and Gynaecological cases may be referred to out patient departments at St.Austell or Wadebridge, centred on the hospital at Redruth. Maternity nursing homes at Liskeard and Launceston frequently take cases from the town.

Laboratory

Laboratory services were available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary and St.Lawrences Hospital.

Ambulance

Patients unable to use public transport are conveyed to hospital by units of the County Council Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service. The County Council vehicles based on the main station in the town are all on radio control. The station is manned by paid personnel on a full time basis. The provision of hospital transport was adequate during the year.

Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Midwifery Service.

The nursing care of patients in their own homes was provided by two District Nurses - Midwives, with some part-time assistance in general nursing duties. There were 54 home confinements during 1962 and 45 conducted in hospital. Health visiting was undertaken by a full-time Health Visitor living in the town.

Infant Welfare Centre.

An Infant Welfare Centre held in the Borough's Narisa Hall was well attended, with an average of 25 children per session. The assistance given to mothers is advisory in character, together with the various protective inoculations for their children. Narisa Hall is used also for the childrens orthopaedic, Eye and speech therapy clinics, and for mothercraft classes held by the Health Visitor.

Vaccination & Immunisation.

The protective measures which are available through the Infant Welfare Centre, School Health Service or family doctor include immunisation against diptheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and smallpox. The proportion of children reaching the age of one year protected during 1962 were :-

Dipthoria)	
Tetanus)	72.5%
Whooping Cough)	
Smallpox	53.7%
Poliomyelitis	76.2%

An increase in the number of persons vaccinated against smallpox was recorded, probably the result of outbreaks of the disease introduced into Britain in 1961/62. Vaccination against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) was available to susceptible contacts at the Chest Clinic, and for Secondary School entrants through the School Health Service.

School Health Service.

The town has four local authority schools within its boundaries, County Grammar, County Secondary and two Primary Schools. The only modern building is the County Secondary School. The others are old buildings erected many years ago. Overcrowding in the Primary Schools has been reduced by the opening of the County Secondary School, and certain improvements in the old buildings, particularly the County Primary School have been made. These improvements however fall far short of the requirements of modern school buildings.

At routine inspection the pupils examined were found to be of good general physical condition. Two serious cases of poor nutritional standard were observed. Cleanliness and clothing with few exceptions were of a high standard. The number of important physical defects recorded amongst entrants appears to be becoming less each year.

Water Supply.

The Town is in the area covered by the North Cornwall Water Board. The greater part of the water supply is taken from upland springs in St.Breward, passed to a collecting tank where the supply is chlorinated as it passes to the main which conveys it to Bodmin. The main discharges into a reservoir on the Beacon Hill with 280,000 gallons capacity where the water is further chlorinated. The reservoir is uncovered. Most of the properties in the town are fed from the reservoir but some on the higher levels are supplied from the rising main. Recently an additional supply has been taken from the Boards main at Nanstallon.

Three samples of untreated water were submitted for bacteriological examination. All had a bacterial content. Samples of treated water (42) produced 4 of doubtful quality. A chemical analysis showed the water to be very soft and acidic (PH.5.6) and corrosive to metals. Lead is not used in service pipes. The majority of dwellings are connected to the towns supply, but a few e.g. Kirland, are without a mains supply and urgently require one.

The supply from St.Breward is not regarded as a satisfactory one, and the Council have requested the Board to have the whole of the towns supply taken from the De Lank source.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The towns sewage is directed to three sewage treatment works, (Dragon Pits, Blowinghouse and Scarletts Well). The sewers are of various ages, and those in the lower part of the town have deteriorated to a degree which permits the entry of sub-soil water. This fact has considerably delayed the

modernisation of the Scarletts Well Sewage works to which these sewers lead. A local enquiry held by the Ministry's Inspector during the year, required an investigation with a view to modifying the new works on the repair of the defective sewers. The works at Dragon Pits and Blowinghouse functioned satisfactorily during the year.

Refuse Disposal.

The towns refuse tip is sited at Dragon Pits. It is not a controlled tip in the strict sense of the word, but no complaints were received. The present site is almost completely used and a new site, or an extension of the present one will have to be obtained.

Rodent Control.

The Council employs one rodent operator. Formal inspections were made to 854 properties, as well as 436 informal ones. Six major infestations and 16 minor ones were recorded.

Caravan Sites.

There are two licensed caravan sites in the Borough at Dunmere and Cooksland. In the latter no visible attempt had been made during the year to comply with licence conditions and action was taken under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act,1960 to secure improvement. The case was dismissed on grounds of incorrect presentation. No improvements were secured during the year.

Public Health Inspection.

Summary of Visits.

Council Houses	375
Private Houses	406
Food Premises	121
Slaughterhouses	383
Other premises	530

Eight informal notices were served in relation to defects observed on complaint. All produced satisfactory results.

Housing.

Building by the Borough Council continued in the Downing Street area. Eight one-bedroomed flats were completed in Dennison Road and work commenced on two two-bedroomed and two three-bedroomed houses and a shop with flat in Downing Street. Further Council development is proposed for Halgavor (22 three-bedroomed houses) Meadow Place (6 three-bedroomed, 8 two-bedroomed houses,) and in the Rhind Street clearance area.

The rate of private building has been extremely high. Sixty seven of the first 117 low priced dwellings on the Westheath Estate have been completed. A further 99 are proposed for this Estate and 68 in Barn Lane. Private development is also proposed at Mid Lane (22) Crabtree Lane (18) and Valley View (8). In spite of this very extensive building achievements the councils housing list is still quite large.

During the year 8 Standard Grants and 1 Discretionary Grant were issued for Housing Improvements.

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Food & Drugs.

Two new licences were issued for the sale of prepacked ice-cream. Four milk distributors were registered by the Council during the year.

Slaughter of Animals.

The two privately owned slaughterhouses were brought up to the standard required by recent regulations, and licences were issued in July, 1962. St.Lawrences Hospital also has a slaughterhouse not under the control of the local authority. This too complied with the requirements during the year. The result of meat inspection is shown in the appendix.

Factories.

Industrial development continued in the Borough. The S.P.D. warehouse, and the Bodmin Precision Components factory were completed at Dunmere Road. The Family Bakers Bakery was also erected at Halgavor. Further development of this kind is anticipated on Dunmere Road and Lostwithiel Road.

There were 44 registered factories during 1962, of which 30 were inspected. Sanitary defects were found in 3 premises by the Public Health Inspector, and 1 by H.M. Inspector of Factories. Insufficient sanitary accommodation was reported in 2 factories, one by the Public Health Inspector and one by the H.M. Inspector of Factories. No prosecutions were instituted and all defects were repaired.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The only notified infectious diseases were measles 7 and Dysentry 7, the latter occuring in St.Lawrences Hospital. No food poisoning was reported, and no new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified.

The figures of protective inoculations have already been quoted, and they indicate a reasonable response to these procedures.

Active immunisation against tuberculosis was offered to Secondary School entrants with a high acceptance rate. The number of positive tuberculosis reactions was small, and subsequent X-Ray revealed no evidence of active disease. School children in their 15th year and over were invited to the mass radiography unit. Again a good response was obtained, and no positive findings were reported. The present position on tuberculosis is that 24 cases of pulmonary (19 male,5 female) and 2 non-pulmonary (1 male, 1 female) cases are registered, a decrease of 2 since last year. The corresponding figures ten years ago were 37 and 11 respectively. No new case of tuberculosis has been reported in the Borough since 1960.

May I conclude my report by thanking the members of the Council and the staff for their continued help and co-operation during 1962.

and beg to remain

Your obedient Servant,

John Reed.

APPENDIX.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	189	58	10	619	482
Number Inspected	189	58	10	619	482
All diseases except T.B. & Cysticercosis					
Whole Carcasses	-	-	-	2	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	12	4	-	4	8
Percentage affected	6.3	6.9	-	.9	1.6
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcase	Nil	-	-	-	Nil
Part or organ	-	-	-	-	35
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	7.3
Cysticorsosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil